

FBI, SPRINGFIELD

3-20-52

6-55

PM CST

LLG

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

CHARLES BROWN, FUG. J DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, GOVERNOR ADLAI STEVENSON, VICTIMS., EXTORTION. RENVTEL MARCH EIGHTEEN LAST ENTITLED CHARLES BROWN, FUG., DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, VICTIM., EXTORTION. SUBJECT GIVEN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM U. S. ARMY AUG. TWENTYFIFTH, FORTYSEVEN AND FILED CLAIM WITH VA BECAUSE OF NERVOUS CONDITION, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO MILITARY SERVICE. SUBJECT HAS BEEN IN SEVERAL VA MENTAL HOSPITALS AND JACKSONVILLE STATE HOSPITAL, JACKSONVILLE, ILL. AND HIS CONDITION IS DESCRIBED AS PSYCHO NEUROSIS HYSTERIA. INFORMATION RECEIVED SUBJECT APPREHENDED APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AGO IN NEW YORK CITY, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS IN POSSESSION OF A PISTOL. SUBJECT IS PRESENTLY DRAWING THIRTY PERCENT DISABILITY, BUT HAS WRITTEN MANY LETTERS DEMANDING THAT THE VA PAY HIM ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PENSION FROM THE DATE OF HIS DISCHARGE. ON MARCH SEVENTEEN, FIFTYTWO, LETTERS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE SUBJECT POSTMARKED MARCH FOURTEEN, FIFTYTWO A NEW YORK CITY, WHICH WERE DIRECTED TO THE ILLINOIS VETERANS COMMISSION. VICTIM DONALD HAROLD HOWELL IS DIRECTOR OF CLAIMS AND THE SECOND LETTER WAS DIRECTED TO, QUOTE, ILLINOIS STATE GOVERNOR STEVENSON, UNQUOTE. THE CONTENTS OF THE SECOND LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS, QUOTE, CHARLES BROWN, ONE FIVE ONE SEVEN, E. REYNOLDS, ST., SPRINGFIELD, ILL., FRIDAY, MARCH FOURTEEN, NINETEEN FIFTYTWO - WORLD WAR TWO DISABLED NEGRO VET. V.A., KNOWS THEY ARE NOW NOT. SO, I FROM HERE ON OUT FIGHT AND KILL

END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

UNTIL I AM KILLED. FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE, RIGHTS OF G.I. SCHOOL AND TRAINING AND ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BACKTIME PAY AND ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PAY FROM DISCHARGE TIME. EXPERIMENTED ON, BEATEN AND MISTREATED IN ARMY, V.A. AND STATE HOSPITALS. PUT OUT OF ARMY BY TEXAS LILY WHITE STAFF. SO, I GO OUTSIDE OF LAW AND KILL. -CHARLES BROWN, C DASH ONE FOUR, ZERO SIX FIVE, SEVEN SIX THREE-- ONE SIX, TWO ZERO NINE, SIX SIX ONE, UNQUOTE. THE FIRST NUMBER IS THE SUBJECT-S VA CLAIM NUMBER WHILE THE SECOND NUMBER IS HIS ARMY SERIAL NUMBER. INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT SIMILAR LETTERS HAVE ALSO BEEN RECEIVED FROM SUBJECT BY THE MAYOR OF SPRINGFIELD, ILL. AND GOVERNOR FRANK J. LAUSCHE OF OHIO. THIS DATE, SECRET SERVICE, SPRINGFIELD, ILL. IN RECEIPT OF INFORMATION THAT SIMILAR LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSES SUBJECT BELIEVED TO RESIDE AT THREE TWO SEVEN WEST TWENTIETH ST., APARTMENT SIX, NEW YORK CITY. HOWEVER, INVESTIGATION REFLECTS SUBJECT NOT KNOWN THAT ADDRESS AND NEGROES HAVEING EVER LIVED THERE. INFORMATION RECEIVED THIS A.M., THAT TRAVELERS AID SOCIETY, BOSTON, MASS., FURNISHED SUBJECT A ONE-WAY BUS TICKET TO SPRINGFIELD, ILL. AND EIGHT DOLLARS CASH. SUBJECT TO HAVE LEFT BOSTON FIVE FORTYFIVE P.M., E.S.T., MARCH

END PAGE TWO

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PAGE THREE

MARCH NINETEEN LAST, TO ARRIVE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS ELEVEN FIFTYFIVE PM C. S.T. THIS DATE. PROCESS PRESENTLY OUTSTANDING AT SPRINGFIELD, CHARGING SUBJECT WITH VIOLATING SECTION EIGHT SEVEN SIX, TITLE EIGHTEEN, USC IN THAT ON MARCH FOURTEEN, FIFTYTWO SUBJECT CAUSED TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE U.S. MAIIS A LETTER THREATENING TO DO BODILY HARM TO DONALD HAROLD HOWELL. CHICAGO HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO APPREHEND SUBJECT UPON HIS ARRIVAL BY GREYHOUND BUS. CINCINNATI HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN DETAILS OF LETTER RECEIVED BY GOVERNOR LAUSCHE.

HOSTENY

END

ACK PLS

HOLD

8-09 PM OK FBI WA JMG

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Ladd

DATE: March 21, 1952

FROM : Mr. Rosen

Time of call: 3:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: CHARLES BROWN - FUGITIVE  
 DONALD HAROLD HOWELL  
 GOVERNOR ADLAI STEVENSON - VICTIMS  
 EXTORTION

PURPOSE:

To advise of the apprehension of the above named fugitive by the Chicago Office.

DETAILS:

John Boyajian, Supervisor in the Chicago Office, advised that Charles Brown was apprehended by FBI Agents in Chicago about 1:30 a.m. CST, today. He was arrested without incident as he got off a Greyhound Bus from Boston, Massachusetts. He readily admitted his identity and also admitted writing six different threatening letters and sending them through the mail. These letters were given as: 1 to Veterans Administration, Springfield, Illinois, 1 to Mayor of Springfield, 1 to Governor of Illinois, one to Governor of Ohio, one to President Truman, and one to the Veterans Administration in Washington, D. C. In each of these letters he threatened to kill the recipients unless he got what he considered as his "Rights." He will be arraigned today on the basis of process outstanding in Springfield, where he is charged with violating Section 876, Title 18, USC, in that on March 14, 1952, he caused to be deposited in the U. S. Mail a letter threatening to do bodily harm to Donald Harold Howell, who is connected with the Illinois Veterans Commission.

ACTION:

Boyajian was advised that a press release had been authorized and that it should include essential facts regarding the letter upon which process is outstanding. In addition he was told that mention should be made concerning the other letters which the subject admitted writing. Chicago is immediately advising Springfield, Office of Origin, regarding the apprehension and facts regarding the press release.

cc: Mr. Nichols

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WJEN:bjl

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SPRINGFIELD

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3-17.18.19; 3-20-52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3-17.18.19; 3-20-52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ROWLAND C. HALSTEAD RCH:EV</b>
TITLE <b>CHARLES BROWN - FUGITIVE DONALD HAROLD HOWELL - Victim; Gov. ADLAI E. STEVENSON - Victim; Gov. FRANK J. LAUSCHE - Victim; Mayor JOHN E. MACWHERTER - Victim; President HARRY S. TRUMAN - Victim</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>EXTORTION</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  <p>On 3-14-52, subject CHARLES BROWN, honorably discharged veteran, mailed letters to the Illinois Veterans Commission and Gov. ADLAI E. STEVENSON, both of Springfield, Illinois, from New York City, threatening to kill for his "backpay". On August 26, 1947, subject filed a claim with the VA for service connected disability to wit: - nervousness. Since his discharge, BROWN has been a patient at the VA hospitals at Danville, Illinois and Chicago, Illinois for treatment of his nervous condition. On 1-10-49, the Sangamon County Court, Springfield, Illinois, committed him to the Jacksonville State Hospital where his condition was described as "psycho-neurosis hysteria" and on 5-21-49, he was given an absolute discharge. Information received similar letters have been received by Gov. FRANK J. LAUSCHE of Ohio, Mayor JOHN E. MACWHERTER of Springfield and President HARRY S. TRUMAN. Authorized complaint filed before U.S. Commissioner, Springfield, Illinois, on 3-18-52, charging subject with violation of Section 876 Title 18 USC. \$5,000 bond recommended. Fugitive form letter submitted. Subject apprehended by Bureau Agents on 3-21-52 at Chicago, Ill. AUSA, Springfield, Illinois desires subject be given psychiatric examination. <u>SUBJECT IS PSYCHO-NEUROTIC, ARMED, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS.</u></p>			
<p style="text-align: right;">EXPEDITE PROCESSING. APR 9 1952</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P - 9 - 81398 - 10</p>			
COPIES DESTROYED 36 JUL 14 1965			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 3 - Chicago (1, USA) 2 - Cincinnati 1 - New York (Info) 1 - USA, Springfield 2 - Springfield (9-570)		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES  RECORDED - 93 SE 48 106  FBI - SPRINGFIELD FBI - SECT.	

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DETAILS: The following investigation is predicated upon the receipt of information from CLARENCE W. WINKLEBLACK, Assistant Administrator, Illinois Veterans Commission, Springfield, Illinois, that subject, CHARLES BROWN, had sent a letter to the Illinois Veterans Commission threatening to do bodily harm.

At Springfield, Illinois:

CLARENCE W. WINKLEBLACK advised that his office had received on March 17, 1952, the following letter which was enclosed in an envelope addressed to the Illinois Vets Commission, Springfield, Illinois and postmarked, March 14, 1952 at New York, New York:

"Charles Brown  
1517 E. Reynolds St.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Friday - March 14, 1952

"Put out of army by Louis Lily White at Ft. Illinois all service-connected. Experienced on, beaten, mistreated in Army- V.A. and State hospital. Can't get G.I. school or training or Backtime pay 100% from time of discharge and 10% monthly then on. So, for justice, rights and all pay, I begin killing at once. I'll kill till I'm killed. If must die I'll die fighting for my pay, justice and rights. Will start at once.

"Charles Brown - 16209601 - C-14065703"

Mr. WINKLEBLACK advised that this letter was routed to DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, Director of Claims, Illinois Veterans Commission, inasmuch as Mr. HOWELL was responsible for CHARLES BROWN'S claims and that Mr. HOWELL had previously handled the subject's claims.

Mr. WINKLEBLACK said in addition to the aforementioned letter on March 17, 1952, the Governor's office received the following letter enclosed in an envelope addressed to Illinois State Governor STEVENSON, Springfield, Illinois, postmarked, March 14, 1952, New York, New York:

"Charles Brown  
1517, E. Reynolds, St.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Friday - March 14, 1952

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"World War II Disabled Negro Vet. V.A. knows they are now not.  
So, I from here on out fight and kill, until I'm killed. Fighting  
for justice, rights of G.I. School and training and 100% backtime  
pay and 100% pay from discharge time. Experimented on, beaten and  
mistreated in army, V.A. and state hospitals. Put out of army  
by Texas lily white staff. So, I go outside of law and kill.

Charles Brown  
C-14,065,763  
16,209,661"

Mr. WINBLEBLACK advised that this letter had been referred to his  
office by the Governor's office for appropriate action.

DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, Director of Claims, Illinois Veterans Commission,  
advised that he is acquainted with CHARLES BROWN, the person who sent  
the two aforementioned letters, inasmuch as BROWN, as a citizen of  
Illinois and a discharged veteran, has sent numerous letters to his  
office seeking help to get his disability pension claim approved by  
the Veterans Commission. Mr. HOWELL described CHARLES BROWN as a  
chronic complainer, whose disability, namely: nervous condition,  
is allegedly to be service connected and BROWN has not worked since  
his discharge from military service and has been living on gratuities  
from the Veterans Administration.

Mr. HOWELL stated that inasmuch as he has been in personal contact  
with CHARLES BROWN, he feels that the letter was undoubtedly directed  
to him inasmuch as BROWN does not know his name.

Mr. HOWELL made available his file pertaining to CHARLES BROWN, which  
reflected that CHARLES BROWN, Negro, legal residence, 1517 E. Reynolds  
St., Springfield, Illinois, ASN RA 16,209,661 and his veterans claim  
No. C-14,065,763, had enlisted in the regular army on May 14, 1946 at  
Chicago, Illinois and was honorably discharged on August 25, 1947 at  
the Brooks General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. BROWN was  
discharged under the provisions of AR 615-369 and is not eligible for  
entry into the Army unless authorization is obtained from the Adjutant  
General, Washington, D.C. At the time of his discharge, BROWN filed  
a 526 service connected claim for disability.

This file further reflects that BROWN was admitted to the Veterans  
Administration hospital at Danville, Illinois, during September 1948

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and on November 4, 1948 he was authorized a leave of absence to visit his parents and that he never returned. BROWN has also been a patient at the Hines Hospital, Veterans Administration, Chicago, Illinois. On January 10, 1949, BROWN was committed to the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois by the Sangamon County Court, Springfield, Illinois as being in need of mental treatment. His condition was diagnosed at this institution as psycho-neurosis hysteria and he was given an absolute discharge from this hospital on May 21, 1949 and has subsequently been considered as competent.

This file reflects that the Veterans Administration at Chicago, Ill., on April 20, 1949, awarded the veteran zero percent disability from August 25, 1947 until September 21, 1948, at which time the disability claim was to be 100%.

Mr. HOWELL believes that this 100% payment was subsequently cut to 30% and that the veteran, CHARLES BROWN'S complaint is that he wants to be paid 100% disability from the date of his discharge, namely, August 25, 1947 until the present time.

Mr. HOWELL advised he was in receipt of a letter from W. A. MORRIS, Chief, Division of Soldiers' Claims, Veterans Affairs, State of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, which reflected that the Governor of Ohio, FRANK J. LAUSCHE, had received a letter dated March 14, 1952 signed by CHARLES BROWN, which contained the following message:

"Will fight until I get help - I'll kill until I am killed for rights justice and pay from army."

THOMAS HOWERTON, Sgt., Detective Bureau, Springfield Police Department, advised on March 17, 1952, the Mayor of Springfield, JOHN E. MACPHERTER, had received a letter from CHARLES BROWN, Negro veteran, to the effect that CHARLES BROWN was going to kill unless he received his backpay from the Army. Sgt. HOWERTON said he did not have this letter at the present time, that it had been given to Detectives KIRK and HARTILL with the instructions to arrest CHARLES BROWN. According to Sgt. HOWERTON, inquiry at 1517 E. Reynolds Street reveals that BROWN is someplace in Harlem, New York City.

ELLIOTT THACKER, Springfield Office, Secret Service, advised that he was in receipt of information that CHARLES BROWN, negro veteran of Springfield, Illinois, had sent a letter postmarked March 15, 1952, New York City to the President of the United States, HARRY S. TRUMAN, which contained the following message:

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"I will once begin killing - I'll kill until I am killed -  
Won't wait no longer - I'm going to die fighting for my  
pay justice my rights - I am going to kill for what's mine."

Mr. THACKER advised that this message had been referred to him for appropriate action, inasmuch as this letter contained a threat upon the President of the United States.

HENRY BROWN, 1517 E. Reynolds, subject's father, was interviewed at the Allis-Chalmers Plant, at which time HENRY BROWN advised that his son periodically gets nervous spells and during this time he feels that his son should be in some institution receiving medical attention. HENRY BROWN said every month his son receives his pension check from the federal government and immediately leaves Springfield for New York City. Mr. HENRY BROWN said approximately a year ago his son was arrested by the New York City Police Department for suspicion, at which time he was armed with a pistol. HENRY BROWN stated he has never seen this weapon and does not know anything about its description. HENRY BROWN said that during 1949 his son was so nervous that he took it upon himself to have the Sangamon County authorities commit his son to the Jacksonville State Hospital, where he received shock treatments and was discharged as being cured, although he personally feels that his son's treatment at this institution was not successful.

Facts of this case were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT G. MECKENHAMP, Southern District of Illinois, who advised that CHARLES BROWN had violated the federal extortion statute and in view of the subject's medical history he could be considered dangerous and that he should be taken into custody.

On March 18, 1952, the writer filed an authorized complaint before U. S. Commissioner WILLIAM B. CHITTEMEN, Springfield, Illinois, charging CHARLES BROWN with violating Section 876, Title 18, USC, in that on or about March 14, 1952, he deposited or caused to be deposited a letter in the U. S. Mails threatening to do bodily harm to DONALD HAROLD HOWELL. Bond of \$5,000 returnable at Springfield, Illinois was recommended.

Based upon information furnished by the subject's parents, the New York Division was requested to locate and apprehend subject BROWN at 327 W. 20th Street, Apartment 6, New York City.

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By teletype dated March 19, 1952, the New York Division advised that the subject was not known at that address.

Inasmuch as during the interview with subject's father, HENRY BROWN, he mentioned that whenever his son was stranded in a strange city he always went to the Traveler's Aid Society for help. Mr. RAYMOND PATTON, Executive Secretary, Traveler's Aid Society, 210 1/2 E. 6th St., was contacted for information he may have had concerning subject BROWN. PATTON advised that the previous day he had received a telephone call from the Traveler's Aid Society at Boston, Massachusetts requesting authorization to furnish CHARLES BROWN of Springfield, Illinois, transportation to his home. PATTON explained that inasmuch as BROWN is considered "chronic", that is, he is continually using help from the Traveler's Aid Society to travel around the country, he advised Boston that he would not authorize. Mr. PATTON volunteered to immediately telephone the Traveler's Aid Society in Boston and ascertain as to the present whereabouts of CHARLES BROWN. As a result of his long distance telephone call, Mr. PATTON learned that the Traveler's Aid Society in Boston realized that CHARLES BROWN was mentally incompetent, ignored the advice from Springfield and gave CHARLES BROWN a one-way non redeemable ticket via Greyhound bus to Springfield, Illinois and had placed him on this bus at 5:45 p.m., March 19, 1952 to arrive in Chicago, Illinois, 11:55 p.m. March 20, 1952, to transfer to Springfield, Illinois.

Chicago Division advised by teletype dated March 21, 1952, that subject BROWN had been apprehended by Bureau Agents at Chicago, Illinois at 1:30 a.m., that he did and had admitted writing letters in which he threatened to do bodily harm and depositing them in the U. S. mails at New York City on March 14, 1952, addressed to Illinois Veterans Commission, Mayor of Springfield, The Governor of Illinois, The Governor of Ohio and the President of the United States.

Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT G. HECKENHAUF, upon being advised as to subject BROWN'S apprehension and present incarceration, stated he was going to immediately direct a letter to the United States Attorney at Chicago, Illinois, setting out the medical history of CHARLES BROWN and requesting that his office arrange through the Veterans Administration at Chicago, Illinois to give subject BROWN a psychiatric examination and perhaps arrange to have him committed if necessary to some mental institution.

The following description of victim, HOWELL, was obtained by observation and interrogation:

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Name	DONALD HAROLD HOWELL
Address	2841 S. 5th St., Springfield, Ill.
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	Nov. 22, 1922, Detroit, Ill.
Height	5' 11"
Weight	135#
Build	Slender
Hair	Dark Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Ruddy
Wife	RITA MURPHY HOWELL

The following description for subject BROWN was obtained from his discharge papers and his father, HENRY BROWN.

Name	CHARLES BROWN
Residence	1517 E. Reynolds St., Springfield, Illinois
Sex	Male
Race	Negro
Birth	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span> Little Rock, Ark.
Marital Status	Single
Height	5' 7"
Weight	130#
Build	Slender
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black, parts on side, "rooster" haircut
Complexion	Dark brown skin
Occupation	Laborer
Father	HENRY WILLIE BROWN
Mother	MATTIE BROWN, 1517 E. Reynolds St., Springfield, Illinois

SUBJECT'S CONDITION IS PSYCHO-NEUROTIC HYSTERIA AND MAY BE ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- PENDING -

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The Springfield, Illinois Police Department, Illinois Veterans Commission, Governor's Office, Springfield, Illinois, Secret Service at Springfield, Illinois and the Cincinnati Division have all been advised of the subject's apprehension. An extra copy of this report is being made available to the Bureau in the event that the Bureau desires to furnish a copy to another governmental agency.

Leads

Chicago Division

At Chicago, Illinois:

Will report subject BROWN'S apprehension and removal.

Cincinnati Division

At Columbus, Ohio:

Will contact W. K. MORRIS, Chief, Division of Soldiers' Claims, Veterans Affairs, State House, re a letter received by Governor FRANK J. LAUSCHE as requested in Springfield teletype 3-19-52.

New York Division

One copy of this report is being furnish for information purposes in view of investigation conducted to locate subject BROWN and for possible future reference inasmuch as CHARLES BROWN has in the past spent a good part of his time living in New York City.

Springfield Division

At Springfield, Illinois:

Will follow and report prosecution.

References:

Springfield teletype to New York, 3-18-52.  
Springfield letter to Bureau, 3-18-52.  
Springfield teletype to Cincinnati, 3-19-52.  
Springfield teletype to Chicago, 3-20-52.  
Springfield teletype to Bureau, 3-20-52. 9-71000-6  
Chicago teletype to Springfield, 3-21-52.  
Springfield letter to Cincinnati, 3-22-52.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SPRINGFIELD

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5/5/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/20,21/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ROBERT E. FORD</b> <span style="float: right;">RBF:clk/aa5</span>
TITLE <b>CHARLES BROWN - FUGITIVE; DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, Governor ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Governor FRANK J. LAUSCHE, Mayor JOHN E. MAC WHERTER, President HARRY S. TRUMAN - VICTIMS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>EXTORTION</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject apprehended 3/21/52 by Bureau agents, Chicago. BROWN admitted writing threatening letters to DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, Gov. ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Gov. FRANK J. LAUSCHE, Mayor JOHN E. MAC WHERTER and President HARRY S. TRUMAN. Subject appeared before USC on 3/25/52 and held for removal to USDC, Springfield. Subject turned over to USM, Southern District of Ill. and was remanded to that District 3/31/52.

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**DETAILS:** At Chicago, Illinois.

At 1:30 a.m. on March 21, 1952, the subject was apprehended as he stepped off a Greyhound bus at their terminal located at 1157 South Wabash Avenue by SAs JOHN H. BOYAJIAN, EDWARD F. CHAFFON LEAU, and the writer. The subject was taken to the Chicago Office and interviewed, at which time he readily admitted his identity and the fact that he had written threatening letters to DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, Governor ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Governor FRANK J. LAUSCHE, Mayor JOHN E. MAC WHERTER, and President HARRY S. TRUMAN. The subject stated the reason he wrote these letters was that he was a disabled veteran and believed that he was entitled to one hundred per cent disability. Subject stated, however, that he never really intended to harm anyone and that he did not have a gun or any other weapon with which to harm anyone. Subject had no luggage in his possession at the time of his apprehension and he advised that he had checked it through to Springfield from Boston. A search of the subject at the time of his apprehension failed to reflect a weapon of any type in his possession.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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Subject appeared before United States Commissioner C. S. BENTLEY PIKE on March 21, 1952, at which time bond was set at \$5,000 and a hearing was set for March 25, 1952. Subject appeared before Commissioner PIKE on March 25, 1952, and was held for removal to United States District Court at Springfield. Subject was turned over to U. S. Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois at Springfield on March 31, 1952 and was remanded to that District.

The following description was obtained of the subject through observation and interrogation:

Name	CHARLES BROWN
Born	[REDACTED] Little Rock, Ark.
Residence	1517 E. Reynolds Street, Springfield, Ill.
Race	Negro
Height	5'7"
Weight	150 lbs.
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Complexion	Brown
Build	Slender
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Unemployed
Relatives	Father, HENRY W. BROWN, 1517 E. Reynolds St., Springfield; Mother, MATTIE BROWN, same address; Brothers, GERALD BROWN, 235 W. Ninth St., Oklahoma City, Okla.; CLIFFORD BROWN, 1334 N. Seventh St., Milwaukee, Wisc.; OSCAR BROWN, Seattle, Wash.; ROBERT BROWN, 1517 E. Reynolds St., Springfield; Sisters, OTHIE DRAPEE, 3012 N. Federal St., Springfield, Ill.; WILLIE MAE BROWN, 1517 E. Reynolds St., Springfield; MATTIE BROWN, 1517 E. Reynolds St., Springfield
Social Security No.	[REDACTED]
Army Serial No.	16209661, entered U. S. Army 5/14/46, Springfield, Ill.; discharged 8/25/47, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas
Education	One yr. high school, Lanfield High School, Springfield, Ill.
FBI #	26299B

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The following identification record was received from the Identification Division of the Bureau:

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
PD Wash DC	Charles Brown #122296	8/4/50	inv susp person	
USM Chgo Ill	Charles Brown #19727	3/21/52	extortion	pending

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Handwriting specimens obtained from the subject at the time of his apprehension will be retained in Chicago files unless otherwise notified by the Springfield Office.

REFERENCES: Springfield teletype to Chicago dated 3/20/52.  
Telephone call from Mr. O. S. MYERS, Division VI at the Bureau, dated 3/20/52.  
Report of SA ROLAND C. HALSTEAD dated 4/1/52, at Springfield, Illinois.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SPRINGFIELD**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>Springfield, Illinois</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-30-52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4-14-52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ROWLAND C. HALSTEAD RCH:RW</b>
CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CHARLES BROWN; DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, Et Al - VICTIMS</b>			<b>EXTORTION</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject BROWN indicted 4-10-52 by FGJ sitting at Springfield, Ill., charging him with violation of Sec. 876, Title 18, USC. On 4-14-52 subject BROWN entered a plea of guilty in USDC, Springfield, Ill., and was sentenced to 3 years custody of the AG to be served at Springfield, Mo. Disposition sheet and parole report submitted.

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**DETAILS:**

Docket #5115, criminal, United States District Court, Southern District of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, reflects that on April 10, 1952, the Federal Grand Jury sitting at Springfield, Illinois, returned a true bill against CHARLES BROWN charging him with violating Section 876, Title 18, United States Code.

This Docket further reflects that on April 14, 1952, CHARLES BROWN was arraigned before the United States District Judge CHARLES G. BRIGGLE, at Springfield, Illinois, where he entered a plea of guilty. Subject BROWN was sentenced to three years to the custody of the United States Attorney General, the sentence to be served at the Federal institution located at Springfield, Missouri.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>R. W. Halstead</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">COPY IN FILE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>2-Bureau (9-21996) (Encls)</p> <p>1-USA, Springfield</p> <p>1-Springfield (9-570)</p>		<p>MAY 7 1952</p> <p>81986</p> <p>STAT. SECT.</p>	<p>RECORDED - 117</p> <p>12</p> <p>OK-99</p>
<p>COPIES DESTROYED</p> <p>86 JUL 14 1965</p>			

DISPOSITION SHEET ATTACHED

STATISTICS

MAY 1952

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ENCLOSURES: TO BUREAU: Disposition sheet and three copies  
of parole report for CHARLES BROWN.

- P E N D I N G -

3-21996-

12

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA ROWLAND C. HALSTEAD dated 4-1-52 at  
Springfield, Illinois.

9 -21986-

-3-

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 2

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SPRINGFIELD**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT: <b>Springfield, Illinois</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>4-30-52</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>ROWLAND C. BALSTEAD</b>	<b>ROH:RW</b>
NAME OF CONVICT WITH ALIASES: <b>CHARLES BROWN</b>			
VIOLATION: <b>EXTORTION</b>		<b>PAROLE REPORT</b>	

## OUTLINE OF OFFENSE

On March 14, 1952, CHARLES BROWN, deposited or caused to be deposited in the United States Mails at New York City, New York, two letters threatening to kill, one of which was addressed to the Illinois Veterans Commission and the other to Governor STEVENSON, both at Springfield, Illinois. The letter addressed to the Illinois Veterans Commission was received by DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, Director of Claims, who had previously had business transactions with CHARLES BROWN regarding BROWN's benefits as a veteran of the United States military forces.

The following letter was received by Mr. HOWELL:

"CHARLES BROWN  
1517 E. Reynolds St.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Friday - March 14, 1952

"Put out of army by Texas lily white staff. Illness all service-connected. Experimented on, beaten, mistreated in Army-V.A. and State hospital. Can't get G.I. school or training or Backtime pay 100% from time of discharge and 100% monthly then on. So, for justice, rights and all pay,

(DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES)

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>R.N. Hasting</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	RECORDED AND INDEXED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: <b>3-Bureau (9-21996)</b> <b>2-Springfield (9-570)</b> <b>200 Bu. of Prisons</b> <b>5/2/52</b> <b>260: m</b>	CHECKED OFF: <b>12</b> JACKETED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ROUTED TO:	FILE:

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I begin killing at one. I'll kill till I'm killed. If must die I'll die fighting for my pay, justice and rights. Will start at once.

"CHARLES BROWN - 16209661 - C-14065763"

The following letter was received by ADAMI E. STEVENSON, Governor of Illinois:

"CHARLES BROWN  
1517, E. Reynolds, St.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Friday - March 14, 1952

"World War II Disabled Negro Vet. V.A. knows they are now not. So, I from here on out fight and kill, until I'm killed. Fighting for justice, rights of G.I. School and training and 100% backtime pay and 100% pay from discharge time. Experimented on, beaten and mistreated in army, V.A. and state hospitals. Put out of army by Texas lily white staff. So, I go outside of law and kill.

CHARLES BROWN  
C-14,065,763  
16,209,661"

Upon authorization from the Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, an authorized complaint was filed on March 18, 1952, before the United States Commissioner at Springfield, Illinois, charging CHARLES BROWN with violating Section 876, Title 18, United States Code, in that on or about March 14, 1952, he deposited or caused to be deposited a letter in the United States Mails threatening to do body harm to DONALD HAROLD HOWELL.

On March 21, 1952, CHARLES BROWN was apprehended by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Chicago, Illinois, and was subsequently removed to Springfield, Illinois.

On April 10, 1952, the Federal Grand Jury sitting at Springfield, Illinois, for the Southern District of Illinois, returned a true bill in two counts charging CHARLES BROWN with violating Section 876, Title 18, United States Code, for mailing threatening communications.

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On April 14, 1952, CHARLES BROWN was arraigned before the United States District Judge at Springfield, Illinois, where he entered a plea of guilty to the aforementioned two count indictment. The United States District Judge permitted the plea of guilty to be entered and subsequently sentenced CHARLES BROWN to the custody of the United States Attorney General for a period of three years. This sentence is to be served at the United States Penal Institution located at Springfield, Missouri.

MITIGATING AND AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

There are no known mitigating circumstances.

On or about the same date that CHARLES BROWN mailed the two aforementioned threatening letters, he also mailed similar letters to FRANK J. LAUSCHE, Governor of the State of Ohio; JOHN E. MAC WHERTER, Mayor of the City of Springfield, Illinois; and HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States.

According to information received from CHARLES BROWN's father, HENRY BROWN, sometime during the year of 1951 CHARLES BROWN was armed with a pistol. According to HENRY BROWN, his son periodically gets nervous spells and during this time he feels that his son should be in some institution receiving medical attention. During the year of 1949 HENRY BROWN, through the authorities of Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois, committed his son to the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, where CHARLES BROWN's condition was described as psycho-neuroses hysteria and on May 21, 1949, he was given an absolute discharge from this institution and was subsequently considered as being competent. CHARLES BROWN was committed to this state institution on January 10, 1949.

HISTORY OF THE DEFENDANT

CHARLES BROWN, Negro, single, citizen of the United States, was born [redacted] at Little Rock, Arkansas. CHARLES BROWN is one of four children who were raised in apparently a good home environment. CHARLES BROWN's father is presently employed as building custodian at the Allis Chalmers Plant located in Springfield, Illinois, and enjoys a good reputation in the community.

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After attending high school for one year CHARLES BROWN was gainfully employed as a common laborer in and around Springfield, Illinois. On May 14, 1946, CHARLES BROWN enlisted in the regular United States Army at Chicago, Illinois, at which time his legal residence was 1517 East Reynolds Street, Springfield, Illinois. On August 25, 1947, he was honorably discharged at the Brooks General Hospital, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. BROWN was discharged under the provisions of AR 15-369 and is not eligible for entry in the Army unless authorization is obtained from the Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. At the time of his discharge BROWN filed a 526 service connected claim for disability, namely nervousness.

BROWN's discharge reflects that he had no foreign service, that he received no wounds in action, he participated in no battles or campaigns, and his rank upon discharge was Private First Class.

BROWN has not been gainfully employed since his discharge and he gives as his reason for not getting employment his service connected nervousness. He has been living at home with his parents in Springfield, Illinois, and his only known source of income is his monthly pension check from the Veterans Administration. Upon receiving his monthly pension check, BROWN immediately leaves Springfield and travels to New York City where he lives in a hotel until his money is gone and then he would return to Springfield, Illinois, with funds provided by either his parents or the Travelers' Aid Society. BROWN would then remain with his parents until he received his monthly pension check and then he would again leave for New York City. Neither of BROWN's parents know exactly what he does while he is in New York City; however, they are in contact with him by means of letters and telephone calls.

During September of 1948, BROWN was admitted to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Danville, Illinois, for treatment of his nervous condition; however, on November 4, 1948, he was authorized a leave of absence to visit his parents and he never returned. BROWN has also been a patient at the Hinds Hospital, Veterans Administration, Chicago, Illinois.

BROWN is known in Springfield, Illinois, as being a quiet young man who never seems to get into any trouble and who has not worked since his discharge from the Army in view

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of his nervous condition.

The United States Marshal, Southern District of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, was advised under his arrest number SI 12341 by the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that CHARLES BROWN had no previous arrest record.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SPRINGFIELD

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <u>Springfield, Illinois</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>5-22-52</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>5-10-52</u>	REPORT MADE BY <u>ROWLAND C. HALSTEAD :ng</u>
TITLE <u>CHARLES BROWN; DONALD HAROLD HOWELL, et al - VICTIMS</u>			CHARACTER OF CASE <u>EXTORTION</u>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Original complainant advised. Prosecution completed.

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**DETAILS:** CLARENCE W. WINKLEBLACK, Assistant Administrator, Illinois Veterans' Commission, Springfield, Illinois, original complainant in this case has been advised of the sentence received by subject BROWN. All exhibits furnished by Mr. WINKLEBLACK have been returned.

Final prosecution completed.

-CLOSED-

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36 JUL 14 1965

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">COPY IN FILE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>2-Bureau (9-21996)</p> <p>2-Springfield (9-570)</p>	<p>17-21996-1A</p> <p>MAY 26 1952</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">STAT SECT.</p>	<p>RECORDED - 4</p> <p>EX-25</p>

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA ROWLAND C. HALSTEAD dated 4-30-52,  
at Springfield.  
Report of SA ROBERT B. FORD dated 5-5-52, at  
Chicago.

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